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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,863	12/12/2001	Szuchain F. Chen	102155-200	7198

27267 7590 03/02/2004

WIGGIN & DANA LLP  
ATTENTION: PATENT DOCKETING  
ONE CENTURY TOWER, P.O. BOX 1832  
NEW HAVEN, CT 06508-1832

EXAMINER

KOEHLER, ROBERT R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1775

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Applicati n N .

10/017,863

Applicant(s)

CHEN, ET AL.

Examiner

Robert R. Koehler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 8-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

RRK.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2,3,4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: In claim 12, the subject matter "effective to stabilize the solution so as to substantially prevent zinc hydroxide precipitation over a period of at least 3 days" cannot be found in the specification. See line 8 on page 7 to line 4 on page 8.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 6, line 27 on page 9, the wording "to the" should be deleted because the claim does not read properly as originally presented. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Japan Patent Application 55-44536 (Japan '536).

The English-language Abstract for Japan '536 discloses a cold-rolled steel sheet having a coating comprising at least a rubidium compound, a chromium compound, and a zinc compound wherein the compound of these three metals can be a hydroxide. The Abstract for Japan '536 discloses that these coating solutions can be applied directly to a cold-rolled steel sheet.

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2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,098,796 (Lin, et al.).

Lin, et al. discloses a copper or copper-base alloy material having a coating layer comprising a co-deposited layer including zinc and chromium. The Examiner has interpreted claims 1 and 7 as being silent about the actual presence of any rubidium ions in the zinc-chromium layer. The Examiner believes that any rubidium ions attributed to the coating solution would be rinsed from the claimed zinc-chromium coating layer. Lin, et al. also discloses that excess electrolyte is rinsed from the surfaces of the coated metal strip. See lines 24 to 36 in column 5.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 6 and 8 to 12 are allowed.

Claims 2 to 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

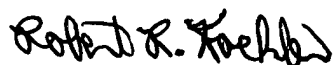
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Robert Koehler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1536. The Examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones, can be reached on (571) 272-1535. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for

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unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).



**ROBERT R. KOEHLER**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

**Art Unit 1775**  
**February 23, 2004**